

Claims:

Claims 1-27 (Canceled)

28. (New) A deck system comprising:

a plurality of laterally spaced joists;

a plurality of boards extending across and supported by the joists, each of said boards presenting an upper lip and a lower lip, said upper and lower lips defining a pair of longitudinally extending grooves on generally opposite sides of the board, and said lower lip having a thickness "E"; and

a plurality of fasteners rigidly coupled to the joists, each of said fasteners presenting a pair of protrusions defining a groove having a height "F," each of said protrusions being received in a respective groove of a respective board in a substantially complementary fashion, wherein "E" is at least about 1% greater than "F."

29. (New) The system of claim 28, wherein "E" is at least about 2% greater than "F."

30. (New) The system of claim 29, wherein "E" is at least about 5% greater than "F."